

-- IN THE CLAIMS --

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1- 12 (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A process for covalently or electrostatically binding nucleic acids to a carrier comprising the following steps:

(a) dissolving nucleic acids and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of betaines in a spotting solution to obtain a spotting solution containing nucleic acids and betaines;

(b) applying the resulting solution of step (a) onto said carrier to bind said nucleic acids onto said carrier.

14. (previously presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein said betaine is trimethylammonium acetate.

15. (previously presented) The process according to claims 13 or 14, wherein said betaine is present in said spotting solution at a concentration range of 8 mM to 6.5 M.

16. (previously presented) The process according claim 13, wherein the spotting solution contains about 1.5 M of sodium chloride and about 150 mM of sodium citrate, and wherein the pH value of said spotting solution is about 7.

17. (previously presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein said carrier is made of glass.

18. (previously presented) The process according to claim 17, wherein said glass is coated with poly-L-lysine and/or an aminosilane.

19. (previously presented) The process according to claim 18, wherein said glass, after binding of the nucleic acids thereto, is treated in order to deactivate the poly-L-lysine and/or the aminosilane.

20. (previously presented) The process according to claim 19, wherein said glass is treated with a solution of a succinic anhydride blocking agent and an acylating catalyst in a nonpolar non-aqueous solvent.

21. (previously presented) The process according to claim 20, wherein said acylating catalyst is N-methylimidazole.

22. (previously presented) The process according to claim 20, wherein the nonpolar non-aqueous solvent is 1,2 - dichloroethane.

23. (previously presented) The process according to claim 20, wherein 0.2 g to 20 g of succinic anhydride and 1 ml to 10 ml of N-methylimidazole are dissolved in about 200 ml of 1,2-dichloroethane.

24. (currently amended) A process for covalently or electrostatically binding nucleic acids to a carrier which process comprises adding a betaine to a solution of nucleic acids to produce a solution containing betaines and nucleic acids and subsequently applying the resulting solution to a carrier to bind said nucleic acids to said carrier.

25. (currently amended) A process for manufacturing microarrays containing nucleic acids covalently or electrostatically bound to their surface comprising the following steps:

(a) dissolving nucleic acids and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of betaines in a solvent to obtain a spotting solution of nucleic acids;

(b) applying said spotting solution of nucleic acids onto said microarrays to bind said nucleic acids to the surface of said microarrays.

26. (currently amended) A process for covalently or electrostatically binding nucleic acids to a carrier comprising the following steps:

(a) dissolving nucleic acids and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of betaines in a solvent to obtain a solution containing nucleic acids and betaines;

(b) applying the resulting solution of step (a) onto said carrier to bind said nucleic acids onto said carrier.